

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-23 (canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A mold assembly for use in forming a pre-cured dry cast ~~masonry~~ concrete block having upper and lower faces, a front face, a rear face, opposed side faces, and an integral flange extending below the lower face of the block, the mold assembly comprising:

a plurality of side walls defining a mold cavity having an open mold top and an open mold bottom, a first of said side walls including an undercut adjacent the open mold bottom that, along with a flat surface of a pallet that closes the entire open bottom of the mold cavity, defines a flange-forming subcavity of the mold cavity configured to form the flange of the block, ~~and wherein no projection extends into the open bottom of the mold cavity while the flat surface of the pallet is closing the open bottom of the mold cavity.~~

25. (Currently amended) The mold assembly of claim 24 including a stripper shoe having a face that comprises a three-dimensional pattern for introduction into the mold cavity through the open top of the mold cavity to press the patterned face of the stripper shoe on dry cast ~~masonry~~ concrete contained in the mold cavity, to impart a pattern to the front face of a pre-cured ~~masonry~~ concrete block.

26. (Original) The mold assembly of claim 25 wherein the pattern of the face of the stripper shoe simulates natural stone.

27. (Currently amended) The mold assembly of claim 26, wherein said stripper shoe includes a flange surrounding the perimeter of the patterned face and said flange is arcuate so as to produce rounded edges on the front face of the ~~masonry~~ concrete block.

28. (Original) The mold assembly of claim 24, wherein the remainder of said side wall with said undercut is substantially planar and extends substantially vertically.

29. (Currently amended) The mold assembly of claim 24, wherein a second side wall of the mold, which is generally perpendicular to said first side wall, includes a first converging side wall portion that is moveably mounted so that it is movable between a first position at an angle with respect to vertical so that the mold cavity is wider at its top than it is at its bottom when dry cast ~~masonry~~ concrete is introduced into the mold cavity, and a second position in which the bottom of the mold cavity is at least as wide as the top of the mold cavity to allow the pre-cured ~~masonry~~ concrete block to be discharged through the bottom of the mold cavity, wherein the first converging side wall portion extends across the entire distance of the mold cavity between two opposed side walls that are adjacent the second side wall.

30. (Currently amended) The mold assembly of claim 29 wherein the side wall of the mold opposite said second side wall includes a second converging side wall portion which is opposite the first converging side wall portion and extends the entire distance across the mold cavity between the two opposed side walls that are adjacent the second side wall, and wherein the second converging side wall portion is moveably mounted so that it is movable between a first position at an angle with respect to vertical so that the mold cavity is wider at its top than it is at its bottom when dry cast ~~masonry~~ concrete is introduced into the mold cavity, and a second position in which the bottom of the mold cavity is at least as wide as the top of the mold cavity to allow the pre-cured ~~masonry~~ concrete block to be discharged through the bottom of the mold cavity.

31. (Original) The mold assembly of claim 30, wherein said converging side wall portions are pivoted near ends thereof adjacent the open mold top.

32. (Currently amended) The mold assembly of claim 30, further including a mechanism for biasing each of said converging side wall portions to the ~~angled~~ first position.

33. (Original) The mold assembly of claim 32, wherein the mechanism for biasing each of said converging side wall portions comprises an air bag connected to each converging side wall portion.

34. (Original) The mold assembly of claim 30, wherein each of said converging side wall portions includes a substantially planar surface facing the mold cavity.

35. (Original) The mold assembly of claim 24 comprising a plurality of said mold cavities which operate with a single pallet to mold a plurality of blocks at the same time

36. (Currently amended) A mold assembly for use in forming a pre-cured dry cast ~~masonry~~ concrete block having upper and lower faces, a front face, a rear face, opposed side faces, and an integral flange extending below the lower face of the block, the mold assembly comprising:

a plurality of side walls defining a mold cavity having an open mold top and an open mold bottom, a first of said side walls of the mold includes a first converging side wall portion that is moveably mounted so that it is movable between a first position at an angle with respect to vertical so that the mold cavity is wider at its top than it is at its bottom when dry cast ~~masonry~~ concrete is introduced into the mold cavity, and a second position in which the bottom of the mold cavity is at least as wide as the top of the mold cavity to allow the pre-cured ~~masonry~~ concrete block to be discharged through the bottom of the mold cavity, wherein the first converging side wall portion extends across the entire distance of the mold cavity between two opposed side walls that are adjacent the first side wall; and

a stripper shoe having a face that comprises a three-dimensional pattern for introduction into the mold cavity through the open top of the mold cavity to press the patterned face of the stripper shoe on dry cast ~~masonry~~ concrete contained in the mold cavity, to impart a pattern to the front face of a pre-cured ~~masonry~~ concrete block.

37. (Original) The mold assembly of claim 36 wherein the pattern of the face of the stripper shoe simulates natural stone.

38. (Currently amended) The mold assembly of claim 37, wherein said stripper shoe includes a flange surrounding the perimeter of the patterned face and said flange is arcuate so as to produce rounded edges on the front face of the ~~masonry~~ concrete block.

39. (Currently amended) The mold assembly of claim 36 wherein the side wall of the mold opposite said ~~one~~ first side wall includes a second converging side wall portion which is opposite the first converging side wall portion and extends the entire distance across the mold cavity between the two opposed side walls that are adjacent the first side wall, and wherein the second converging side wall portion is moveably mounted so that it is movable between a first position at an angle with respect to vertical so that the mold cavity is wider at its top than it is at its bottom when dry cast ~~masonry~~ concrete is introduced into the mold cavity, and a second position in which the bottom of the mold cavity is at least as wide as the top of the mold cavity to allow the pre-cured ~~masonry~~ concrete block to be discharged through the bottom of the mold cavity.

40. (Original) The mold assembly of claim 39, wherein said converging side wall portions are pivoted near ends thereof adjacent the open mold top.

41. (Currently amended) The mold assembly of claim 39, further including a mechanism for biasing each of said converging side wall portions to the ~~angled~~ first position.

42. (Original) The mold assembly of claim 41, wherein the mechanism for biasing each of said converging side wall portions comprises an air bag connected to each converging side wall portion.

43. (Original) The mold assembly of claim 39, wherein each of said converging side wall portions includes a substantially planar surface facing the mold cavity.

44. (Original) The mold assembly of claim 36 comprising a plurality of said mold cavities which operate with a single pallet to mold a plurality of blocks at the same time

Claims 45-61 (canceled)